

16 June 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Over the past year myself and a number of Headteachers in TKAT have developed a working group to look at the content of the Relationships and Sex Education, (RSE), across both primary and secondary schools.

The group is called SAFE, (Sexual Agency For Everyone), and it has an objective to create an SRE curriculum that is well resourced and meets the needs of the children it serves.

We believe that if we can better ensure that the children at all ages are getting the education that they need at the right time, then this could lead to significant changes that will have a positive impact on how people treat each other.

There have been a number of high profile cases of serious sexual criminal behaviour over the past year and we feel that we have a duty as schools to ensure that our children have a very clear understanding of what it is acceptable to do and say.

‘Downplaying certain behaviours, for example dismissing sexual harassment as “just banter”, “just having a laugh”, “part of growing up” or “boys being boys” can lead to a culture of unacceptable behaviours, an unsafe environment for children and in worst case scenarios a culture that normalises abuse leading to children accepting it as normal and not coming forward to report it.’ (Keeping Children Safe in Education - September 2021)

Our school has been selected as one of the pilot schools in the trust and we are hoping that you will be able to support the project by giving permission for your children to take part in an online survey. The online surveys will take place in school between now and the end of term and will be done online as part of one of your child’s PSHE lessons. The data collected will be anonymous and will help us to clearly understand what our students need from our RSE curriculum to mean they are taught the skills and knowledge they need at the right time in order to treat and be treated with the respect they deserve.

Even if you give your permission, if your child decides that they do not want to complete the survey, they will not have to.

The surveys have been developed by Greenwich University and have been approved by their ethics committee. The lead on this is Rebecca Smith, an Associate Professor of Psychology at the University, and this is the link to a short video that provides further information about the surveys:

<https://bit.ly/3OghTqJ>

If you have any further questions following the video, you can contact Rebecca by email:

R.T.Smith@greenwich.ac.uk (her details are also in the video)

We would ask that you complete the consent form by 23 June 2022, to let us know if you give permission or not. To give consent please follow this link:

<https://forms.gle/DKD1YUSc3GXTrGW89>

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Building Successful Futures

If you have anything you would like to discuss at school level, then please contact Abena Boller, Head of PSHE.

We thank you for your time and support of this project.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Hatley'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Daniel Hatley
Executive Headteacher